

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 10382-US-PA
Application No.: 10/604,588

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action dated March 1, 2006 has rejected claims 1, 3-6 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Winsor (USP 6,762,556). The Office Action has further rejected claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winsor (USP 6,762,556) in view of Volkommer et al. (US 6,034,470) and claims 9-11 as being unpatentable over Winsor further in view of Winsor (US 5,319,282).

Claim 1 has been amended and claims 9-10 have been cancelled. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 3-8, 11 and 23 remain pending in the present application. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the specification. The specification has also been amended. Support for the amendments in the specification can be found in the drawings. It is believed that no new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the claims or otherwise in the application.

After carefully considering the remarks set forth in this Office Action and the cited references, Applicants respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are already in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection are requested.

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Interview Summary

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Roy for granting a telephonic interview on May 16, during which the 35 USC §102 & 103 rejections were discussed. More particularly, the undersigned and the examiner discussed the rejections and the teachings of the Winsor (US 6,762,566) and the Winsor (US 5,319,282) references. After discussing that the '282 reference teaches the primary chamber 12 being attached to the secondary chamber 62 by two sidewalls 70, 72, whereas the present invention teaches a plurality of adhesive layers disposed along the outer surface of the dielectric substrate to connect with the carrier substrate, an agreement was reached that the proposed amendments to claim 1 patently define over the cited references. Examiner Roy further indicated that the propose amendments overcome the objections to claim 1.

Discussion of Specification Objections

The title of the invention is objected to for being non-descriptive.

The title of the invention has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestions. Reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because the phrase 'same outer surface' in the limitation in claim 1 reciting 'electrodes disposed only and directly on a same outer surface of an outer wall' is unclear.

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Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 of the instant case clearly teaches the gas discharge chamber comprising a dielectric substrate, a plate disposed above the dielectric substrate and a plurality of strips connecting edges of the dielectric substrate and the plate. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that it is evident that the dielectric substrate and the plate are separate entities even though they are parallel and have the same dimension, and the recitation that the plurality of electrodes disposed only and directly on a same outer surface of an outer wall of the dielectric substrate can only be construed as the electrodes disposed only on the outer surface of an outer wall of the dielectric substrate of the gas discharge chamber and not on any surface or outer surface of the plate or other elements. Applicants have further amended claim 1 in an effort to better define the claim invention. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite “...a plurality of electrodes disposed directly on an outer surface of an outer wall of the dielectric substrate of the gas discharge chamber and disposed only on the same surface of the dielectric substrate...”. Withdrawal of the objections are courteously solicited.

Response to 35 U.S.C. 102 & 103 rejections

Claims 1, 3-6 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Winsor (USP 6,762,556).

Applicants respectfully submit that the independent 1 patently define over Winsor ('556) for at least the reason that the cited art fails to disclose each and every feature as claimed in the present invention. More particularly, Winsor fails to teach, among other thing, that “...a carrier

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substrate disposed beneath the dielectric substrate to carry the gas discharge chamber, wherein a plurality of adhesive means is disposed along the outer surface of the outer wall of the dielectric substrate to connect with the carrier substrate...".

As recognized by the Office, Winsor is completely silent about a carrier substrate disposed beneath the dielectric substrate to carry the gas discharge chamber. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claim 1 renders the 102(c) rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winsor (USP 6,762,556) in view of Volkommer et al. (US 6,034,470).

With regard to the 103 rejections of claims by Winsor ('556) in view of Volkommer ('282), Applicants respectfully submit that these claims defined over the prior art references for at least the reasons discussed above.

Even though Volkommer may have taught the electrodes being metal electrodes, with the fact the Volkommer also fails to teach or suggest a carrier substrate disposed beneath the substrate or an adhesive disposed between the dielectric substrate and the carrier substrate, the combination of Winsor and Volkommer still fails to render claim 1, 7-8 of the invention unpatentable. Withdrawal of the rejection is thereby requested.

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Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winsor (USP 6,762,556) in view of Winsor et al. (USP 5,319,282).

With regard to the 103 rejection of claims 7-8 by Winsor ('556) in view of Winsor ('282), Applicants respectfully submit that these claims defined over the prior art references for at least Winsor ('282') also fails to teach or suggests "...a carrier substrate disposed beneath the dielectric substrate to carry the gas discharge chamber, wherein a plurality of adhesive means is disposed along the outer surface of the outer wall of the dielectric substrate to connect with the carrier substrate...".

Contrary to the Office's assertion, Winsor ('282) does not just teach a carrier substrate (element 68) being disposed on the plate 65 of the lamp. Instead, Winsor teaches a second chamber 62 being constructed on the first chamber 62. Further, the present invention teaches that a carrier substrate disposed beneath the dielectric substrate to carry the gas discharge chamber, by having a plurality of adhesive means disposed along the outer surface of the outer wall of the dielectric substrate to connect with the carrier substrate, whereas Winsor ('282) teaches that the alleged carrier substrate (element 68) is connected to the plate 65 with the sidewalls 70, 72 of the secondary chamber 62.

Additionally, the present invention teaches that the flat lamp structure constructed on a carrier substrate can enhance the strength of the flat lamp and allow a thinner dielectric material being used under atmospheric pressure. However, in order to achieve the results of thinner plates, the prior art requires a formation of an enclosed chamber 62, wherein the pressure in the

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secondary chamber 62 is at an intermediate pressure between atmospheric and low pressure of the primary chamber 12.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that even Winsor ('556) is combined with Winsor ('282), the combination still fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectively requested.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the presently pending claims 1, 3-8, 11 and 23 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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